

# Office of State Police Affairs

Located within the Attorney General's Office, the Office of State Police Affairs (OSPA) was created to ensure implementation of reform recommendations made by a specially-appointed State Police Review Team, and to ensure full compliance with the terms of a federal Consent Decree pertaining to the prevention of racial profiling. The essential mission of the Office of State Police Affairs is to ensure that the New Jersey State Police is, and remains, a premier law enforcement agency committed to the most effective and constitutionally sound police practices.

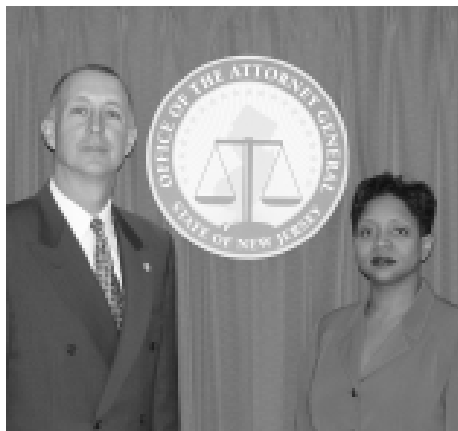
On a regular basis, the OSPA oversees the training of troopers and trooper candidates on cultural awareness, law enforcement ethics and leadership, constitutional law pertaining to search and seizure and equal protection, and other key issues.

The Office also provides Consent-Decree-related technical assistance to State Police decision makers, and monitors and reviews State Police internal investigative processes to ensure they are being carried out both properly and effectively.

The OSPA also prosecutes non-criminal discipline cases brought against Troopers accused of misconduct and — when a potential conflict-of-interest or other special circumstance requires it — conducts internal affairs investigations in place of the State Police's own internal affairs unit, the Office of Professional Standards.

The OSPA is directed by an experienced prosecutor, and staffed by a deputy director, four deputy attorneys general, and six full-time investigators, including a chief investigator and deputy chief investigator, as well as a contingent of State Police personnel commanded by a captain. The office is also staffed by a social scientist/statistical analyst, and various clerical and support personnel.

Through collaborative effort involving the Attorney General, State Police leadership and enlisted members, the State Police Academy, the court-appointed Independent Monitoring Team, and the U.S. Department of Justice, the OSPA has moved the New Jersey State Police into full compliance with requirements of the federal Consent Decree of 1999.



*From left to right: Daniel G. Giaquinto, Director/State Police Affairs, AAG  
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In December 2004, the Attorney General and the OSPA issued the 11<sup>th</sup> Independent Monitors' Report, which found that no evidence of racial profiling by State Police had been identified by the monitoring team during the prior six-month review period. That same report also lauded State Police for "remarkable" gains made in such areas as Trooper training, field operations and personnel supervision.

Significantly, the 11<sup>th</sup> Monitors' Report found that State Police had, for the first time since monitoring began, accomplished all field-operations-related tasks required by the Consent Decree. Previously, the 10<sup>th</sup> Independent Monitors' Report had been nearly as glowing, with the monitors praising evidence of "substantial compliance" in virtually every area.

The high marks from the Independent Monitoring Team are no accident.

On a regular basis, the OSPA has been working on many fronts to help make the New Jersey State Police become the strongest and most diverse statewide law enforcement agency in the nation.

OSPA personnel audit tapes of calls placed to the State Police citizen "hotline" to ensure that information — particularly specific caller complaints — is properly reported and handled.

OSPA also reviews 100 percent of State Police internal affairs investigations into "critical incidents" — those that involve allegations of racial profiling, excessive use of force, violation of constitutional rights, discriminatory treatment, and domestic violence allegedly perpetrated by troopers.

In reviewing these cases, OSPA staffers are principally concerned with ensuring that the Office of Professional Standards has conducted its investigations thoroughly and in ac-

cordance with its own Standard Operating Procedures, and that the outcomes — favorable or unfavorable — are supported by the evidence.

The OSPA is now the only entity that monitors investigations conducted by the State Police Office of Professional Standards. In April 2004, the court terminated oversight of that unit by federal monitors, which had been ordered under the Consent Decree, in response to a joint motion by the State and the Department of Justice. The Office of Professional Standards was lauded by the Independent Monitoring Team as a "shining star" for its work in conducting internal affairs probes.

In addition to its direct monitoring work, the OSPA also functions as an important liaison between the State Police, the Independent Monitoring Team and the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division.

It was OSPA personnel who partnered with State Police supervisors more than a year ago to ensure supervisory review of all videotapes of reportable car stops conducted by road Troopers, as opposed to review of only the "paper" reports filed by troopers regarding those car stops. (A trooper is required to file a stop report on any car stop in which he or she takes action requiring a driver and/or occupant to get out of the vehicle — including arrest, frisk, car search, deployment of a drug-sniffing dog, etc.)

Today, members of the OSPA describe those regular videotape reviews by supervisors as vital, because they enable supervisors to identify and correct — via follow-up discussion, training, and/or other interventions — errors by road troopers.